



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 5671**
Natsume MATSUZAKI et al. : Attorney Docket No. 2003_1213A
Serial No. 10/649,678 : Group Art Unit 2132
Filed August 28, 2003 : Examiner Devin E. Almeida
GROUP FORMATION/MANAGEMENT : **Mail Stop: AMENDMENT**
SYSTEM, GROUP MANAGEMENT
DEVICE, AND MEMBER DEVICE

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF EXAMINER INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Statement is being filed to make of record the substance of the telephone interview conducted with Examiner Devin E. Almeida on January 31, 2008. During the interview, the present invention (as recited in the independent claims) was discussed in detail. For ease of discussion, the focus of the interview was on independent claim 49; as an exemplary independent claim. Also during the interview, proposed amendments to the independent claims were discussed.

Specifically, the Applicants proposed amending the independent claims to point out the novelty of using both "common secret information" and "valid period information" in managing the access to content by member devices in a group management system.

As amended, the independent claims emphasize that the common secret information is unique to a group and common among a plurality of member devices registered in the group. Additionally, the valid period information shows a valid period for using the common secret information, and is unique to each member device in the group.

During the interview, it was noted that the cited prior art fails to disclose or suggest the features noted above. In particular, the primary references Yang and Ray were discussed in detailed. It was noted that Yang discloses the use of a common group key, but fails to disclose a valid period for using the common group key that is unique to each device in a group. Additionally, Ray merely discloses the use of a unique session key, a unique group key, and a valid period for using the unique session key; which actually teaches away from a valid period for using a common group key (i.e., as in Yang).

Therefore, it was noted that there is no motivation to combine the teaching of Ray with Yang. Additionally, even if the combination is made, the combination still does not teach or suggest all the features recited in the independent claims (as amended). That is, Yang in view of Ray fails to disclose or suggest at least the use of common secret information unique to a group and common among a plurality of member devices registered in the group; and valid period information showing a valid period of use of common secret information, wherein the valid period information is unique to each member device.

At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner acknowledged the points noted above by the Applicants, and indicated that further consideration would be given to these points upon filing a formal response to the Office Action.

If the Examiner should have any questions or comments regarding this Statement, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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